

HYATTSVILLE, MD - Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) today presented the City Hyattsville and the Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. (HIP) with \$250,000 to build affordable housing for the artistic community.

In April of 2004, the City of Hyattsville selected Housing Initiative Partnership Inc. (HIP) to purchase and redevelop the City's property at 4307 Jefferson Street. The 1.7-acre site, one block west of Route 1, currently holds an abandoned 7-story office building. The community is eager to see the property redeveloped because the building has become a neighborhood eyesore.

"The Renaissance Square project is helping to revitalize the Route 1 Corridor," Hoyer said. "Building affordable housing for the artistic community, coupled with the planned full-service YMCA on the site, will strengthen Hyattsville's economy and make Renaissance Square a focal point for activities of all kinds, including a gallery, entertainment, health and exercise, daycare, and urban living."

This funding is critical to the Renaissance Square project, the city's first major arts-related development. Renaissance Square was conceived as a project that would redevelop public land into a combination of uses that would continuously serve the community. With a YMCA, affordable artists' housing, and apartments, the development will be able to serve a wide and diverse population by creating jobs, providing affordable housing, and supporting the arts.

"We are extremely grateful for Rep. Hoyer's leadership in securing these funds and his commitment to our revitalization efforts," stated Bill Gardiner, Mayor of the City of Hyattsville. "Renaissance Square will create wonderful community amenities for our traditional town center, and facilitate additional private investment in the City."

Hoyer, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, and the only member from Maryland, took a lead role in securing the funding for this important project.

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